

LOUDOUN COUNTY POVERTY SYMPOSIUM
"CUTTING POVERTY IN HALF"
OCTOBER 24, 2007

Appendix I - Biographies

Biographies

Peter B. Edelman — Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center

Peter Edelman is a Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, where he teaches constitutional law and poverty law. On the faculty since 1982, he has also served in all three branches of government. During President Clinton's first term he was Counselor to HHS Secretary Donna Shalala and then Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

Professor Edelman has been Associate Dean of the Law Center, Director of the New York State Division for Youth, and Vice President of the University of Massachusetts. He was a Legislative Assistant to Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Issues Director for Senator Edward Kennedy's 1980 Presidential campaign. Prior to working for RFK, he clerked for Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and before that for Judge Henry J. Friendly on the U.S. Court of Appeals. He also served as Special Assistant to U.S. Assistant Attorney General John Douglas, and was a partner in the law firm of Foley & Lardner.

Mr. Edelman's book, Searching for America's Heart: RFK and the Renewal of Hope, is available in paperback from the Georgetown University Press. He has written extensively on poverty, constitutional law, and children and youth. His article in the Atlantic Monthly, entitled "The Worst Thing Bill Clinton Has Done," received the Harry Chapin Media Award. With Harry Holzer and the late Paul Offner, he recently co-authored Reconnecting Disconnected Young Men, published by Urban Institute Press.

Professor Edelman has chaired and been a board member of numerous organizations and foundations. He is chair of the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission and recently co-chaired a blue-ribbon Task Force on Poverty for the Center for American Progress, and is currently board president of the New Israel Fund and board chair of the National Center for Youth Law. In addition, he is a board member of the Public Welfare Foundation, the Center for Law and Social Policy, and a number of other nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Edelman has been a United States-Japan Leadership Program Fellow, was the J. Skelly Wright Memorial Fellow at Yale Law School, and has received numerous honors and awards for his work, including the William J. Brennan, Jr. Award from the D.C. Bar in 2005. He grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Camille Cormier — Director of Local Programs and Policy at Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)

Camille Cormier is Director of Local Programs and Policy at Wider Opportunities for Women in Washington, D.C. Mr. Cormier joined WOW's staff in October 2005. Established in 1964, WOW works nationally and in its home community of Washington, DC to achieve economic Independence for women and girls. WOW does this through its work at the program and policy levels on issues relating to gender equity in the workforce and strategies to help women and girls prepare for lifelong economic security.

Local efforts that Camille directs or co-directs include the DC Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project; Washing Area Women in the Trades; the "Women into Protective Services" project; and the DC Women's Agenda advocacy coalition. In 2006, Camille was a National Sector Fellow in the Sector Skills Academy. Ms. Cormier holds a Master's Degree in International Training and Education from American University.

Jodie Levin-Epstein — Deputy Director, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Jodie Levin-Epstein is Deputy Director of CLASP. She established CLASP's reproductive health project upon passage of the 196 welfare law. She has testified in Congress and state legislatures on a range of welfare related topics. More recently, she initiated CLASP's work-life project which seeks to improve the productivity and well-being of workers and their families, particularly those at lower incomes. As a recent Ian Axford Fellow in Public Policy she undertook an analysis of New Zealand's paid parental and paid sick leave policies to identify lessons for the U.S. In addition, she hosts CLASP's widely acclaimed national audio conferences on low income and poverty issues. Prior to joining CLASP, she was the deputy director of the Center for Population Options (now called Advocates for Youth) and served in the federal government as an aide to Senator Dick Clark (D-IA) and as a political appointee at the Department of Agriculture. She was selected to be a member of several prestigious working groups, including a White House Task Force on Hunger and the National Academy of Sciences World Hunger Study Team.